

TORIHARA, H.
Appl. No. 10/813,434
December 6, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 2. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-7, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-7. In Figure 2, reference numeral 22 has been added. Moreover, formal drawings are now represented by Figs. 1-7 (although the only change is in Fig. 2 as mentioned above).

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (4)

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 8, 2005. New claim 24 has been added. Thus, claims 1-24 are now pending.

Formal drawings have been submitted herewith. Also, reference numeral 22 has been added to Fig. 2 so as to be consistent with the specification.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Torihara (JP 2000-235805) (this reference is discussed in the background section of the instant application; see also prior art Fig. 6 of the instant application). This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended requires that “the optical conductor and the light scattering section are located such that an end of the projection of the optical conductor is located outside the periphery of the effective display area of the liquid crystal panel.” For example and without limitation, Fig. 1 illustrates that the end of the projection 4d of the optical conductor 4 is to the left of line “a” which means it is outside of the periphery of the effective display area. For example and without limitation, this is advantageous in that a high degree of display quality in both a frontal viewing direction and in an oblique direction may be realized. For example, even when a display is observed in a direction “c” (see Fig. 1) which is angled with respect to the border plane “a” by an angle “d”, the view may not be aware of the existence of the outer end of the overlapping thin plate section 4d (e.g., border “b” of the section 4d). Thus, for example, substantially no discontinuous change in luminance may occur and satisfactory display quality may be realized.

Torihara fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined feature of claim 1. Torihara is discussed in the background section of the instant application, and is illustrated in prior art Fig.

6 of the instant application. Fig. 6 of the instant application illustrates that Torihara fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined feature of claim 1. In particular, in Torihara (see Fig. 6 of the instant application) the end “b” of the projection 204d of the optical conductor 204 is *not* to the left of line “a” which means it is *not* outside of the periphery of the effective display area. Moreover, as explained in the U.S. counterpart to Torihara (US 6,412,969), Torihara discloses that the effective viewing area of the device includes the supporting section 6 (see col. 9, lines 50-55), so that an end of the projection cannot be located outside the periphery of the effective display area as required by claim 1. Thus, it will be appreciated that Torihara teaches directly away from the invention of claim 1 in this respect. The background section of the instant specification at pages 2-5 explains that Torihara, due to this deficiency, is disadvantageous in that display quality depreciates significantly in an oblique direction. For instance, in the oblique direction, the viewer is annoyingly aware of the existence of an outer end of the overlapping thin plate section 204d (see border ‘b’ in Fig. 6 of the instant application). Thus, when the liquid crystal panel is seen in an oblique direction, the light transmittance is significantly lower outside the border ‘b’ than inside the border ‘b’ resulting in a potential discontinuous change in luminance (pg. 7, line 16 to pg. 8, line 8).

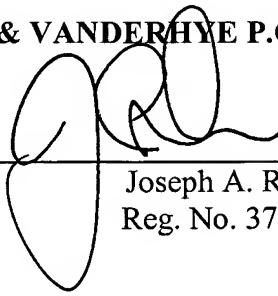
Claim 24 requires that “a vertical wall of a stepped portion of the light scattering section engages an end of the projection of the optical conductor which projects from the light incident surface.” Torihara fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 24. In Fig. 3E (the stepped embodiment) of Torihara the end of the projection is clearly not outside the periphery of the display area.

TORIHARA, H.
Appl. No. 10/813,434
December 6, 2005

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100